

I CLAIM:

1. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid for hinged attachment to a conventional toilet, said self-closing toilet lid comprising:

a closed fluid reservoir formed within a peripheral portion of said lid, said fluid reservoir containing a predetermined volume of fluid and being divided into an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion containing an activation bucket positioned therein and pivotally attached to said lid proximate one side of said peripheral portion thereof;

a drip orifice positioned between said upper and lower portions of said fluid reservoir for permitting a fluid contained within said upper portion of said fluid reservoir to flow into said activation bucket following lifting by the user of said toilet lid to its vertical open position;

one or more fluid return tubes positioned within said upper portion of said fluid reservoir and communicating with said lower portion of said fluid reservoir for permitting the flow of fluid from said lower portion of said fluid reservoir into said upper portion of said fluid reservoir when said toilet lid is in its horizontal closed position;

a hinge assembly for hingedly attaching said toilet lid to said toilet;

a release mechanism coupled to said hinge assembly and mounted on a front surface of said toilet lid proximate a lower end of said peripheral portion thereof, said release mechanism being engaged with said hinge assembly when said toilet lid is in said vertical open position, said release mechanism being responsive to pivotal movement of said activation bucket, initiated by the transfer of a predetermined volume of fluid through said drip orifice from said upper fluid reservoir when said toilet lid is in said vertical open

position, for releasing said toilet lid from engagement with said hinge assembly to thereby allow said toilet lid to gravitationally move to its horizontal closed position.

2. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 1, wherein said fluid comprises water.

3. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 1, further comprising a conventional toilet seat coaxially hingedly mounted behind said toilet lid for motion in concert therewith between said vertical open position and said horizontal closed position.

4. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 1, further comprising fluid flow control means coupled to said drip orifice for adjusting the rate of flow of fluid from said upper portion of said fluid reservoir to said lower portion thereof.

5. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 4, wherein said fluid control means includes user adjustment means mounted on a rear surface of said upper portion of said fluid reservoir to thereby permit the user to adjust a time delay period between manual lifting of said toilet lid to its vertical open position and the commencement of automatic closing of said toilet lid.

6. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 1, wherein a depth dimension of said upper portion of said fluid reservoir is greater than a corresponding dimension of said lower portion of said fluid reservoir.

7. A self-contained, self-closing toilet lid as in claim 1, wherein said release mechanism comprises first stage and second stage release mechanisms, said first stage release mechanism requiring a lower actuation

force than said second stage release mechanism.